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THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CHURCH WITH REGARD TO ITS MESSAGE AND PROGRAM. By Paul Moore Strayer. New York and Boston: The Macmillan Company.

The Rev. Paul Moore Strayer, the author of this suggestive book, is a successful Presbyterian minister of Rochester, New York. He does not write as one who sets out to gather material in order to make a book. The book is a by-product of an effort to solve the problems of the Church by one whose sympathies are bounded by no parochialism, denominationalism, or class distinctions. Through personal intimacy with their leaders and contact with their organized movements, he knows the point of view of the men who are estranged from the churches. This leads him to stress the social aspect of the Church's mission, though his devotion is not less to the spiritual welfare of all classes and communities. His outspoken courage may antagonize some who do not wish to be found where earnest blows are dealt and received for the cause of truth.

The author is one who is as eager to learn as to teach, and the practical programme he suggests has been largely tested in his own efforts or in the efforts of those personally known to him. Moreover, the book, in point of style, is readable, condensed, and epigrammatical. While blinking no practical difficulties, the author is full of hope. To those who complain of the peculiar difficulties of the urban church problem he says: "The theatrical man is not aghast over the apartment house, nor the merchant over the shifting population. The politician gets his appeal to the voters and the voters to the polls. The city problem is handled now and the church can solve it, too, if we give the same sort of thought to the problem."

There is profound practical wisdom in such statements as: "Many churches seek men because of their youth, while clients and patients avoid them for the same reason."

"Christianity is in the air, we are told, but it has the unfortunate way of staying there."

Though the problem of the church in urban communities receives most attention, there is a useful chapter on "The opportunity of the rural church."

JAMES BISHOP THOMAS.